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OPD-1988-11-18

TI - ELECTRON BEAM TRANSMISSION WINDOW

IN - SUGIMURA HIROYUKI

PA - NIPPON KOGAKU KK

IC - G21K5/00; H01J33/04; H01L21/027

O WPI / DERWENT

TI - Electron beam transmission window for e.g. electron microcapsules - has self supporting electron beam transmission film comprising diamond film

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PA - (NIKR) NIKON CORP

IC - G21K5/00 ;H01J33/04 ;H01L21/02

AB - J02138900 Window has a self-supporting electron beam transmission film based on C. The electron beam transmission film is a diamond-shaped C film or a diamond film.

- The diamond-shaped C film pref. comprises diamond-like C, hard C, amorphous C, or i-C.

- USE/ADVANTAGE - Used for electron beam-utilising appts. e.g. electron microscopes, electron-exposure appts., or electron beam length measuring machines. The diamond-shaped C film or diamond film produces an electron beam transmission window having high mechanical strength, so that the electron beams are used in atmospheric air. The electron beam transmission window is used for samples not directly exposed under vacuum condition. The electron beam transmission window is used in the medical or biotechnological field for observation of biological structure. (6pp Dwg.No.3-5/8)

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AP - JP19880291885 19881118

IN - SUGIMURA HIROYUKI

PA - NIKON CORP

TI - ELECTRON BEAM TRANSMISSION WINDOW

AB - PURPOSE:To make it possible to sufficiently correspond to a specimen impossible of being directly exposed in vacuum and observe the fine structure of an organism in a live condition by having a electron beam transmission film of self- support which makes carbon a main component.

- CONSTITUTION: The window material of an electron beam permeation film is an electron beam permeation of self-support which makes carbon a main component, particularly a diamond-like carbon film and a diamond film are used. In this case, an electron beam short from an electron gun8 is irradiated on a specimen 16 through the electron beam transmission film 15 by a focusing lens 18, a scanning coil 20 and a projection lens 19. The electron beam reflected from the specimen enters in the inside of a vacuum vessel 17 through the electron beam transmission widow 15 again and detected by a detector 21. As a result, it is possible to sufficiently correspond to the specimen impossible of being directly exposed in vacuum and the fine structure of an organism can be observed in a live condition.

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I

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❷発明の名称 電子線透過窓

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1. 発明の名称

電子線透過窓

- 2 特許請求の節用
- 1. 炭素を主成分とする自己支持の電子線透過 膜を有することを特徴とする電子線透過窓。
- 2. 前記電子線透過膜は、ダイヤモンド状炭素 膜又はダイヤモンド膜であることを特徴とする請 求項1記載の電子線透過窓。
- 3. 発明の詳細な説明

〔産業上の利用分野〕

本発明は、電子線を利用する機器の電子線透過 窓に関する。

〔従来の技術〕

電子線は大気中での減衰が大きいため、従来よ り電子線の利用は真空中に限られてきた。そのた め、電子線を利用する機器(例えば、電子顕微鏡 や電子線露光装置、及び電子線測長器など)は、 10-5Torr以上の高真空中で試料を扱う必要かあ るため、試料の交換や準備に要する時間が長く、

作業性が極めて悪かった。また、生体の微細構造 を生きた状態で観察することが要求される医学、 パイオテクノロジー等の今後の発展に寄与するた めにも、試料を大気圧で取扱える手段が必要とな っている。

(発明が解決しようとする課題)

そのために、電子線を利用する機器において、 試料の直前に電子線を透過させる窓を置き、試料 と窓との間の極く短い空間だけでも大気圧にする ことが出来るならば、前記の機器は試料を大気圧 で扱うことが可能になり、操作が非常に簡素化さ れ作業性が向上する。

しかしながら、上述のようなことを可能ならし めるためには、電子線を十分に透過させ、しかも、 窓の両側にかかる圧力差に耐えられるだけの機械 的強度を持った、電子線透過窓が必要とされる。 当然ながら、電子線透過窓に使用する電子線透過 膜も同様である。

例えば電子線を利用する機器が電子顕微鏡であ れば、分解能の低下防止のため、透過する電子線

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に無用な散乱を起こさせないように、電子線透過膜は均質であること、すなわち、非晶質か単結晶であることが望まれる。また、電子線透過膜を透過しなかった電子線のほとんどは膜に吸収されて熱となるので、電子線透過膜は放熱の良いこと、すなわち、熱伝導率が高いことも必要となる。

このような要求を満たす材料としては、SiC 薄膜・BN薄膜等が考えられる。しかしながらこれらの物質では、電子線透過率、機械的強度、化 学的安定性、放熱性が充分ではなかった。

本発明の目的は、電子線透過率が高く、機械的 強度及び化学的安定性があり、放熱性に優れてい る電子線透過窓を提供することにある。

(課題を解決する為の手段)

上記目的の為に本発明では、電子線透過窓の窓材料に炭素を主成分とする自己支持の電子線透過膜、特にダイヤモンド状炭素膜、ダイヤモンド膜を用いたことを課題解決の手段とするものである。 [作 用]

ここでいう炭素を主成分とする電子線透過膜は、

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あって、ダイヤモンド状炭素膜(2)を支持枠 (1)で支持した電子線透過窓である。ダイヤモンド状炭素膜(2)は高周はプラズマCVD法により生成した。

第2図は、本発明の第1の実施例との比較例の 縦断面図であって、窒化ほう素膜(3)支持枠 (1)で支持した電子線透過窓である。窒化ほう 素膜は減圧CVD法で生成した。

前記第1の実施例と比較例の比較を以下に示す。

表 1

電子線透過膜の製造温度												
,						成	膜	温	度			
5.	ィャ	モン	ド状	炭素	膜	1	0	0	С	•	以下	
童	化	ホ	ゥ	索	膜	4	0	0	С	•		

表 2

電子線の透過率					
	透過率				
電子線の加速電圧	30KV 20KV 10KV				
ダイヤモンド状炭素膜	95% 91% 76%				
窒 化 ホ ゥ 素 膜	93% 89% 69%				

ダイヤモンド膜、ダイヤモンド状炭素膜などを称 している。

グイヤモンド膜は、熱フィラメントCVD法、 プラズマCVD法、熱焼炎CVD法、電子線CV D法等によって生成する。

ダイヤモンド状炭素膜とは、ダンヤモンドライクカーボン、硬質炭素、アモルファスカーボン、iーカーボンとも呼ばれる、一連の炭素膜の総称である。ダイヤモンド状炭素は、CVD法、プラズマCVD法、イオンピーム法、イオンプレーティング法、スパック法等によって生成する。

このようにして生成した膜はヤング率が高く、 機械的強度があるので、炭化珪素薄膜、窒化ほう 素薄膜等よりも変形しにくく、より薄い窓、より 広い窓が得られる。

もとより、ダイヤモンド膜、ダイヤモンド状炭 素膜は電子線の透過率が高いので、電子線透過窓 の窓材に適する。

〔実 施 例〕

第1図は、本発明の第1の実施例の縦断面図で

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但し 膜厚3 μmの場合

表1、表2からわかるように本発明による電子 線透過膜は、電子線の透過率が大きく、かつ、低 温で生成することが出来る。成膜が低温であるた め、基板材料(すなわち支持枠材料)の選択の自 由度が高くなるうえ、製造のサイクルタイムを減 らすことが出来る。

 を窓から取り出すことか四来るようになる。

第6図は、木発明の電子線透過膜を作製する行程の一例である。

①ダイヤモンド状炭素膜の支持材料として、シリコンウェハー (6) を使用する。

②シリコンウエハー上にダイヤモンド状炭素膜(2)を形成する。

③シリコンウエハー (6) の裏面に、フォトリングラフィーの手法を用いて、エッチングマスク(7) を設ける。

④シリコンウェハー(6)を裏面から、30% 水酸化カリウム水溶液でエッチングする。

⑤ダイヤモンド状炭素膜 (2) に到達するまで、 シリコンウエハー (6) をエッチングする

第7図は、本発明による電子線透過窓を利用した透過型電子顕微鏡の縦断面優略図である。電子銃(8)をでた電子線は、集束レンズ(11)によって集束され、電子線透過窓(15)を通過して、真空容器(9)から大気中にでる。電子線は観察試料(16)を通過し、再び電子線透過窓

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れるので、従来、高真空中に限られていた電子線の利用が電子線透過窓を通して大気中でも可能になる。その結果、真空中に直接さらすことが不可能な試料にも十分に対応出来るので、生体の微細構造を生きた状態で観察することが要求される医学、バイオテクノロジー等の分野の発展に寄与出来る。

4. 図面の簡単な説明

第1図は本発明の第1の実施例の縦断面図である。

第2図は本発明の比較例の縦断面図である。

第3図は本発明の第2の実施例の経断面図である。

第4図は本発明の第3の実施例の縦断面図であ

第5回は本発明の第4の実施例の縦断面図であ 2

第6図は本発明の電子線透過窓を作る行程の例 を示す縦断面図である。

第7図は本発明による電子線透過膜を利用した、

(15) を通過して真空容器(10) の内部にはいる。電子線は、対物レンズ(12) と投射レンズ(13) で投射スクリーン(14) 上に拡大投影される。

第8図は、本発明による電子線透過窓を利用した、反射型電子顕微鏡の縦断面図機略図である。電子銃(8)をでた電子線は、集束レンズ(18)、走査コイル(20)、投射レンズ(19)によって、観察試料(16)上に、電子線透過膜(15)を通して照射される。試料から反射した電子線は、再び電子線透過窓(15)を通過して真空容器(17)の内部に入り、検出器21によって検出される。

なお、電子線透過窓の利用は電子線を利用する 機器にて、前記電子顕微鏡の使用方法のみならず、 材料を密閉型容器に入れ、電子線透過窓を設けて 真空中で使用してもよい。

〔発明の効果〕

以上のように本発明によれば、電子線の透過率 が高く、機械的強度の大きい電子線透過窓が得ら

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透過型電子顕微鏡の例を示す縦断面概略図である。 第8図は本発明による電子線透過膜を利用した、 反射型電子顕微鏡の例を示す縦断面概略図である。 (主要部分の符号の説明)

- 1-支持枠
- 2-ダイヤモンド状炭素膜
- 3 窒化ほう業膜
- 4-メッシュ状支持枠
- 5 メッシュ状補強材
- 6-シリコンウエハー
- 7 エッチングマスク
- 8一電子銃
- 9-真空容器1
- 10-真空容器2
- 11-集東レンズ
- 12-対物レンズ
- 13-投射レンズ
- 14-投射スクリーン
- 15一電子線透過窓
- 16一観察試料

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17-真空容器

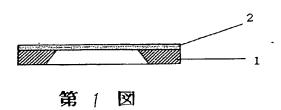
18-集束レンズ

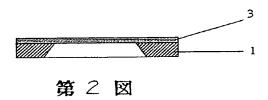
19-投射レンズ

20-走査コイル

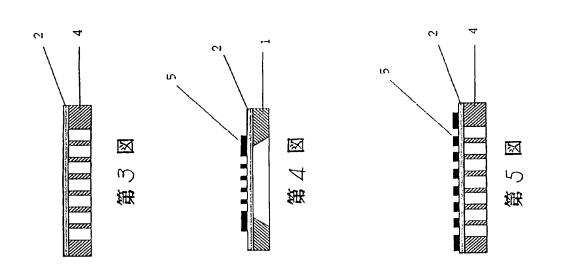
2 1 - 検出器

出願人 株式会社 ニコン 代理人 渡 辺 隆 男



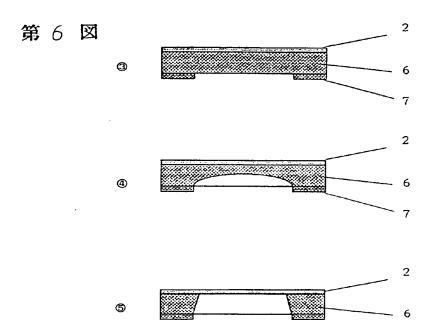


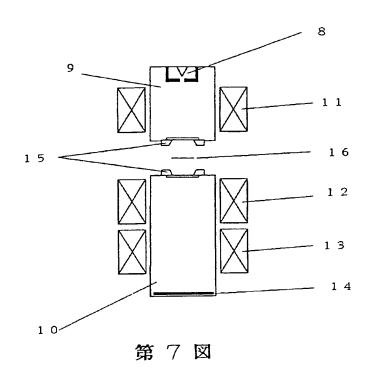
- 1 1 -

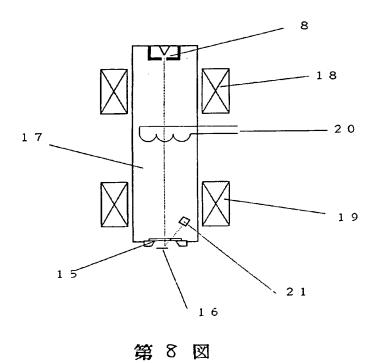












Translation of Japanese Unexamined Patent Application

ELECTRON BEAM TRANSMISSION WINDOW

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63-291885

Filing Date

18 November 1988

SPECIFICATION

1. Title of the Invention

Electron Beam Transmission Window

2. Claims

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- 1. An electron beam transmission window comprising a self-supporting electron beam transmission film of which the principal constituent is carbon.
 - 2. The electron beam transmission window set forth in Claim 1, wherein said electron beam transmission film is a diamond-like carbon film or a diamond film.

3. Detailed Description of the Invention

Industrial field of utilisation

The present invention relates to an electron beam transmission window of equipment that utilises an electron beam.

Prior art

Because an electron beam experiences large attenuation in air, utilisation of electron beams has hitherto been restricted to their use in a vacuum. For this reason, equipment that utilises an electron beam (for example, electron microscopes, electron beam exposure systems and electron beam length-measuring instruments) has required that specimens are dealt with in a high vacuum of at least 10⁻⁵ torr, and hence the working characteristics of such equipment have been extremely poor, with much time being needed to exchange and prepare specimens. However, techniques capable of dealing with specimens at atmospheric pressure are becoming essential in order to contribute to the ongoing development of fields such as medicine and biotechnology, where there is a need to observe intact biological microstructures.

Problems that the invention will solve

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Hence in equipment which utilises an electron beam, if a window that is transparent to an electron beam is placed directly in front of a specimen so that only the extremely short gap between the specimen and the window is at atmospheric pressure, the equipment in question will be able to deal with the specimen at atmospheric pressure, with the result that manipulating the specimen becomes much easier and so the working characteristics of the equipment are improved.

Nevertheless, in order to make such a set up feasible, it is necessary to have an electron beam transmission window which is sufficiently transparent to an electron beam and which also has the mechanical strength required to withstand the pressure difference between the two sides of the window. The same considerations naturally apply also to an electron beam transmission film for use in an electron beam transmission window.

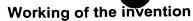
If the equipment that utilises an electron beam is for example an electron microscope, then in order to prevent a decrease in resolution, it is desirable for the electron beam transmission film to be homogeneous so as to avoid giving rise to unwanted scattering of the transmitted electron beam. In other words it is desirable for the electron beam transmission film to be amorphous or single-crystal. Furthermore, because most of the electron beam that does not pass through the electron beam transmission film is absorbed by the film and converted to heat, the electron beam transmission film has to have good heat dissipation properties – in other words, it has to have high thermal conductivity.

Thin films of silicon carbide, boron nitride, etc. are considered to be materials which satisfy such requirements. However, these materials have not provided sufficient electron beam transmittance, mechanical strength, chemical stability and heat dissipation.

It is an object of the present invention to provide an electron beam transmission window having high electron beam transmittance and excellent heat dissipation properties, and which is mechanically strong and chemically stable.

Means for solving problems

To attain the foregoing object the present invention provides, as the material of the electron beam transmission window, a self-supporting electron beam transmission film of which the principal constituent is carbon. In particular, as a means for solving the aforesaid problems, the present invention uses a diamond-like carbon film or a diamond film.



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What is here termed an "electron beam transmission film of which the main constituent is carbon" designates a diamond film, a diamond-like carbon film, etc.

A diamond film is formed by means of a process such as hot filament CVD, plasma CVD, combustion flame CVD, and electron beam CVD.

"Diamond-like carbon film" is the general name for a range of carbon films variously called "diamond-like carbon", "hard carbon", "amorphous carbon" and "i-carbon". Diamond-like carbon is formed by means of a process such as CVD, plasma CVD, ion beam deposition, ion plating, and sputtering.

Because films formed in these ways have a high Young's modulus and are mechanically strong, they are more resistant to deformation than thin films of silicon carbide, of boron nitride, etc., and provide a thinner and larger window.

Because diamond film and diamond-like carbon film offer intrinsically high electron beam transmittance, they are suitable as window materials for electron beam transmission windows.

Embodiments

FIG. 1 is a longitudinal sectional view of a first embodiment of the present invention, and depicts an electron beam transmission window wherein diamond-like carbon film 2 is supported by support frame 1. Diamond-like carbon film 2 was formed by RF plasma CVD.

FIG. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view of a comparison with this first embodiment of the invention, and depicts an electron beam transmission window wherein boron nitride film 3 is supported by support frame 1. The boron nitride film was formed by reduced-pressure CVD.

This first embodiment and comparison example are compared below. Note that in both cases the film thickness was 3 μm .

Table 1

Manufacturing temperature of electron beam transmission films

	Deposition temperature
Diamond-like carbon film	100°C or below
Boron nitride film	400°C

Table 2
Electron beam transmittance

	Transmittance			
Electron beam accelerating voltage	30 kV	20 kV	10 kV	
Diamond-like carbon film	95%	91%	76%	
Boron nitride film	93%	89%	69%	

As will be seen from Table 1 and Table 2, an electron beam transmission film based on the present invention has a higher electron beam transmittance and can be formed at a lower temperature. Because the film deposition temperature is lower, not only is there a higher degree of freedom in the selection of the substrate material (i.e., of the support frame material), but it is also possible to decrease the manufacturing cycle time.

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FIG. 3 is a longitudinal sectional view of a second embodiment of the present invention, and here an electron beam transmission film made from diamond-like carbon film 2 was formed on top of mesh-like support body 4. FIG. 4 is a longitudinal sectional view of a third embodiment of the present invention, and here reinforcing mesh 5 was formed on top of the electron beam transmission film shown in the embodiment depicted in FIG. 1. FIG. 5 is a longitudinal sectional view of a fourth embodiment of the present invention, and here reinforcing mesh 5 was formed on top of the electron beam transmission film comprising diamond-like carbon film 2 formed on top of mesh-like support body 4. By using mesh-like support body 4 and reinforcing mesh 5, it becomes possible to make the electron beam transmission film even thinner and to recover a greater portion of the electron beam from the window.

FIG. 6 gives an example of the process of fabricating the electron beam transmission film of the present invention:

- 1) Use silicon wafer 6 as the support material for the diamond-like carbon film.
- 2) Form diamond-like carbon film 2 on top of the silicon wafer.
- 3) Provide etching mask 7 on the back of silicon wafer 6 by means of photolithography.
- 4) Etch silicon wafer 6 from the back with 30% aqueous solution of potassium hydroxide.
- 5) Etch silicon wafer 6 until diamond-like carbon film 2 is reached.

FIG. 7 is a schematic longitudinal sectional view of a transmission electron microscope in which electron beam transmission windows according to the present invention have been utilised. The electron beam emitted by electron gun 8 is condensed by condenser lens 11,

passes through electron beam transmission window 15 and emerges from vacuum vessel 9 into air. The electron beam passes through specimen 16 under observation, passes through another electron beam transmission window 15 and enters vacuum vessel 10. The electron beam is magnified and projected onto projection screen 14 by means of objective lens 12 and projection lens 13.

FIG. 8 is a schematic longitudinal sectional view of a reflection electron microscope in which an electron beam transmission window according to the present invention has been utilised. The electron beam emitted by electron gun 8 passes through electron beam transmission film 15 and irradiates specimen 16 under observation, by way of condenser lens 18, scanning coil 20 and projection lens 19. The electron beam that is reflected from the specimen passes again through electron beam transmission window 15, thereby entering vacuum vessel 17 and being detected by detector 21.

Note that as regards equipment that utilises electron beams, the use of an electron beam transmission window is not restricted to the way in which it is used in the above-mentioned electron microscopes. Namely, the specimen can alternatively be enclosed in an hermetically sealed container, and an electron beam transmission window provided and used in a vacuum.

Advantageous effects of the invention

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The present invention enables an electron beam transmission window with high electron beam transmittance and high mechanical strength to be obtained, and hence utilisation of electron beams — which has hitherto been restricted to high vacuum environments — becomes possible in air as well, by passing the electron beam through the electron beam transmission window. As a result, it is possible to deal satisfactorily with specimens that cannot be directly exposed to a vacuum. The present invention can therefore contribute to the ongoing development of fields such as medicine and biotechnology, where observations of intact biological microstructures are required.

4. Brief Description of the Drawings

- FIG. 1 is a longitudinal sectional view of a first embodiment of the present invention.
- FIG. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view of a comparison example.
- FIG. 3 is a longitudinal sectional view of a second embodiment of the present invention.
- FIG. 4 is a longitudinal sectional view of a third embodiment of the present invention.
- FIG. 5 is a longitudinal sectional view of a fourth embodiment of the present invention.
- FIG. 6 is a longitudinal sectional view giving an example of the process of making the electron beam transmission window of the present invention.

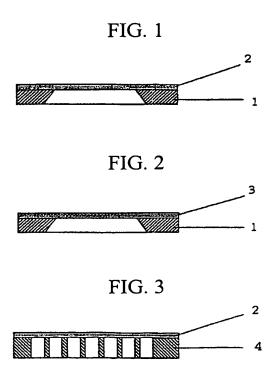
FIG. 7 is a schematic longitudinal sectional view showing an example of a transmission electron microscope in which electron beam transmission films according to the present invention have been utilised.

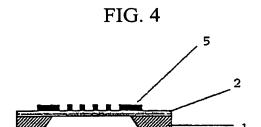
FIG. 8 is a schematic longitudinal sectional view showing an example of a reflection electron microscope in which an electron beam transmission film according to the present invention has been utilised.

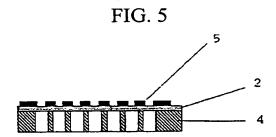
Explanation of referencing numerals for main elements of the invention

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1 support frame	12 objective lens
2 diamond-like carbon film	13 projection lens
3 boron nitride film	14 projection screen
4 mesh-like support frame	15 electron beam transmission window
5 mesh-like reinforcement	16 specimen under observation
6 silicon wafer	17vacuum vessel
7 etching mask	18 condenser lens
8 electron gun	19 projection lens
9 first vacuum vessel	20 scanning coil
10 second vacuum vessel	21 detector
11 condenser lens	

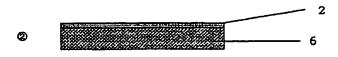




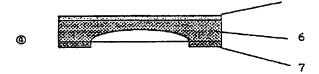












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